

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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MICHAEL EPSTEIN, DAVID CHEUNG, JORDAN  
FERRAND-SAPSIS, ROBERT FLYNN, JONATHON  
LORUSSO, ANDREW LYNN, CATHERINE RYAN, and  
SCOTT HANDLEMAN,

Plaintiffs,

-against-

THE CITY OF NEW YORK, THE HUDSON RIVER  
PARK TRUST, P.O. MICHAEL HO, P.O. STEVEN  
CHOINSKI, P.O. DREW REPETTI, SGT. JAMES  
TORCHI, P.O. FRANKLIN DIAZ, P.O. COLLEEN  
KILLEN, P.O. THOMAS CREAN, P.O. SZABOLES  
DAVID, P.O. DAVID CICATIELLO, P.O. STEPHEN  
VALENTINE, MAYOR MICHAEL BLOOMBERG,  
POLICE COMMISSIONER RAYMOND KELLY, CHIEF  
JOSEPH ESPOSITO, CHIEF NICHOLAS ESTAVILLO,  
ASST. CHIEF BRUCE SMOLKA, DEPUTY  
COMMISSIONER JOHN COLGAN, CHIEF PATRICK  
DEVLIN, INSP. THOMAS GRAHAM, DEPUTY CHIEF  
TERENCE MONAHAN, CAPT. RONALD  
MERCANDETTI, INSP. JOHN HUGHES, LT. THOMAS  
LOWE, CAPT. ANTHONY BOLOGNA, DEP. INSP.  
JAMES SHEA, CHIEF JAMES O'NEILL, DEPUTY  
INSP. GERALD DIECKMANN, DEPUTY  
COMMISSIONER STEPHEN HAMMERMAN, ASST.  
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER THOMAS DOEPFNER, LT.  
DANIEL ALBANO, DEPUTY INSPECTOR KERRY  
SWEET, SENIOR COUNSEL RUBY MARIN-JORDAN,  
and P.O.s JOHN and JANE DOE #1-50, individually and  
in their official capacities, (the names John and Jane Doe  
being fictitious, as the true names are presently unknown),

Defendants.

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Plaintiffs MICHAEL EPSTEIN, DAVID CHEUNG, JORDAN FERRAND-SAPSIS,  
ROBERT FLYNN, JONATHON LORUSSO, ANDREW LYNN, CATHERINE RYAN, and

**FIFTH**  
**AMENDED COMPLAINT**

05 Civ. 1563 (RJS) (JCF)

**JURY TRIAL DEMANDED**

SCOTT HANDLEMAN, by their attorney, ROSE M. WEBER, complaining of the defendants, respectfully allege as follows:

### **PRELIMINARY STATEMENT**

1. Plaintiffs bring this action for compensatory damages, punitive damages and attorney's fees pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983 and 42 U.S.C. § 1988 for violations of their civil rights, as said rights are secured by said statutes and the Constitutions of the State of New York and the United States. Plaintiffs also assert supplemental state law tort claims.

### **JURISDICTION**

2. This action is brought pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983 and 42 U.S.C. § 1988, and the First, Fourth, Fifth, Eighth and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution.

3. Jurisdiction is founded upon 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1343 and 1367.

### **VENUE**

4. Venue is properly laid in the Southern District of New York under U.S.C. § 1391(b), in that this is the District in which the claim arose.

### **JURY DEMAND**

5. Plaintiffs respectfully demand a trial by jury of all issues in this matter pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 38(b).

### **PARTIES**

6. Plaintiff MICHAEL EPSTEIN is a Caucasian male, a citizen of the United States, and at all relevant times a resident of the City and State of New York.

7. Plaintiff DAVID CHEUNG is an Asian-American male, a citizen of the United States, and at all relevant times a resident of the City and State of New York.

8. Plaintiff JORDAN FERRAND-SAPSIS is a Caucasian female, a citizen of the United States, and at all relevant times a resident of the City and State of New York.

9. Plaintiff ROBERT FLYNN is a Caucasian male, a citizen of the United States, and at all relevant times a resident of the State of Oklahoma.

10. Plaintiff JONATHON LORUSSO is a Caucasian male, a citizen of the United States, and at all relevant times a resident of the City and State of New York.

11. Plaintiff ANDREW LYNN is a Caucasian male, a citizen of the United States, and at all relevant times a resident of the City and State of New York.

12. Plaintiff CATHERINE RYAN is a Caucasian female, a citizen of the United States, and at all relevant times a resident of the City and State of New York.

13. Plaintiff SCOTT HANDLEMAN is a Caucasian male, a citizen of the United States, and at all relevant times a resident of the State of California.

14. Defendant THE CITY OF NEW YORK was and is a municipal corporation duly organized and existing under and by virtue of the laws of the State of New York.

15. That at all times hereinafter mentioned, the individually named defendant MAYOR MICHAEL BLOOMBERG was the Mayor of the City of New York and was acting according to his official duties.

16. Defendant THE HUDSON RIVER PARK TRUST was and is a public benefit corporation duly organized and existing under and by virtue of the laws of the State of New York.

17. That at all times hereinafter mentioned, defendant THE HUDSON RIVER PARK TRUST operated, managed, maintained, and controlled a premises designated as Pier 57, in the County, City and State of New York.

18. That at all times hereinafter mentioned, defendant THE HUDSON RIVER PARK TRUST leased Pier 57 to defendant THE CITY OF NEW YORK.

19. Defendant THE CITY OF NEW YORK maintains the New York City Police Department, a duly authorized public authority and/or police department, authorized to perform all functions of a police department as per the applicable sections of the New York State Criminal Procedure Law, acting under the direction and supervision of the aforementioned municipal corporation, City of New York.

20. That at all times hereinafter mentioned, the individually named defendant POLICE COMMISSIONER RAYMOND KELLY was the Commissioner of said department and was acting according to his official duties.

21. That at all times hereinafter mentioned, the individually named defendants P.O. MICHAEL HO, P.O. STEVEN CHOINSKI, P.O. DREW REPETTI, SGT. JAMES TORCHI, P.O. FRANKLIN DIAZ, P.O. COLLEEN KILLEN, P.O. THOMAS CREAN, P.O. SZABOLES DAVID, P.O. DAVID CICALIELLO, P.O. STEPHEN VALENTINE, CHIEF JOSEPH ESPOSITO, CHIEF NICHOLAS ESTAVILLO, ASST. CHIEF BRUCE SMOLKA, DEPUTY COMMISSIONER JOHN COLGAN, CHIEF PATRICK DEVLIN, INSP. THOMAS GRAHAM, DEPUTY CHIEF TERENCE MONAHAN, CAPT. RONALD MERCANDETTI, INSP. JOHN HUGHES, LT. THOMAS LOWE, CAPT. ANTHONY BOLOGNA, DEP. INSP. JAMES SHEA, CHIEF JAMES O'NEILL, DEPUTY INSP. GERALD DIECKMANN, DEPUTY COMMISSIONER STEPHEN HAMMERMAN, ASST. DEPUTY COMMISSIONER THOMAS DOEPFNER, LT. DANIEL ALBANO, DEPUTY INSPECTOR KERRY SWEET, SENIOR COUNSEL RUBY MARIN-JORDAN, and P.O.s JOHN and JANE DOE #1-50 were duly sworn employees of said department and were acting under the supervision of said department and according to their official duties.

22. That at all times hereinafter mentioned the defendants, either personally or through their employees, were acting under color of state law and/or in compliance with the official rules, regulations, laws, statutes, customs, usages and/or practices of the State or City of New York.

23. Each and all of the acts of the defendants alleged herein were done by said defendants while acting within the scope of their employment by defendant THE CITY OF NEW YORK.

24. Each and all of the acts of the defendants alleged herein were done by said defendants while acting in furtherance of their employment by defendant THE CITY OF NEW YORK.

### **FACTS**

25. On August 27, 2004, at approximately 8:30 p.m., plaintiffs were lawfully present on Seventh Avenue between W. 34<sup>th</sup> and W. 35<sup>th</sup> Streets, in the County, City and State of New York.

26. At aforesaid time and place, members of the New York City Police Department began indiscriminately arresting everyone present at that location.

27. Defendant police officers used unnecessary force in taking plaintiffs into custody.

28. Defendant police officers handcuffed plaintiffs and placed them under arrest, despite defendants' knowledge that they lacked probable cause to do so.

29. Upon information and belief, defendant police officers acted pursuant to an unconstitutional mass arrest policy that directed them to arrest individuals who were participating in or were perceived to be participating in protests against the Republican National Convention.

30. Upon information and belief, defendants MAYOR MICHAEL BLOOMBERG, POLICE COMMISSIONER RAYMOND KELLY, CHIEF JOSEPH ESPOSITO, CHIEF NICHOLAS ESTAVILLO, ASST. CHIEF BRUCE SMOLKA, DEPUTY COMMISSIONER JOHN COLGAN, CHIEF PATRICK DEVLIN, INSP. THOMAS GRAHAM, DEPUTY CHIEF TERENCE MONAHAN, CAPT. RONALD MERCANDETTI, INSP. JOHN HUGHES, LT. THOMAS LOWE,

CAPT. ANTHONY BOLOGNA, DEP. INSP. JAMES SHEA, CHIEF JAMES O'NEILL, DEPUTY INSP. GERALD DIECKMANN, DEPUTY COMMISSIONER STEPHEN HAMMERMAN, ASST. DEPUTY COMMISSIONER THOMAS DOEPFNER, LT. DANIEL ALBANO, DEPUTY INSPECTOR KERRY SWEET, and SENIOR COUNSEL RUBY MARIN-JORDAN were personally involved in formulating and/or implementing the policies and procedures that resulted in plaintiffs' unlawful arrests, incarcerations, and prosecutions.

31. Defendant police officers deliberately handcuffed plaintiffs too tightly and kept plaintiffs handcuffed for an excessive period of time, causing plaintiffs pain and injury.

32. Defendants transported plaintiffs to Pier 57 in Manhattan, New York.

33. Plaintiffs were unlawfully denied Desk Appearance Tickets and/or summonses.

34. "Arresting officers" were instructed by employees of THE CITY OF NEW YORK under the supervision of defendants HAMMERMAN, DOEPFNER, ALBANO, SWEET, and MARIN-JORDAN to create false accounts of plaintiffs' arrests.

35. Some or all plaintiffs were charged, *inter alia*, with disorderly conduct under New York Penal Law section 240.20 (the "Disorderly Conduct Statute"), subdivisions 5 and 6, and/or with parading without a permit under New York City Administrative Code section 10.110 ("Section 10.110").

36. Upon information and belief, members of the NYPD are authorized to arrest persons for violation of the Disorderly Conduct Statute, subsection 5, who are engaged in peaceful protest on the roadways of New York City on the ground that they are obstructing pedestrian and/or vehicular traffic, without first being required to issue an order that gives such persons an opportunity to engage in peaceful protest without substantially impeding pedestrians and/or vehicles.

37. Upon information and belief, members of the NYPD are authorized to arrest persons for violation of the Disorderly Conduct Statute, subsection 6, who congregate to peacefully protest on the roadways of New York City and refuse an order to disperse, without first being required to issue an order that gives such persons an opportunity to engage in peaceful protest without substantially impeding pedestrians and/or vehicles.

38. Section 10-110, both on its face and as interpreted and applied by the NYPD during the RNC, is unconstitutionally vague, impermissibly overbroad and improperly applies strict liability.

39. Upon information and belief, while at Pier 57, plaintiffs were exposed to toxic chemicals and substances, including but not limited to brake fluid, diesel fuel, asbestos, chlorinated hydrocarbons, benzene, lead and sulfur.

40. Defendants were aware at all relevant times that Pier 57 contained toxic chemicals and substances.

41. Defendant THE HUDSON RIVER PARK TRUST was aware, at the time that it leased Pier 57 to defendant THE CITY OF NEW YORK, that the pier would be used to house human beings for an extended period of time.

42. From Pier 57, plaintiffs were transported to Manhattan Central Booking.

43. While in custody at Pier 57 and at Manhattan Central Booking, plaintiffs were subjected to unreasonable overcrowding, extremes of heat and/or cold, denial of access to necessary medication and medical attention, denial of adequate food and water, and/or denial of access to counsel.

44. Plaintiff MICHAEL EPSTEIN was held and detained in police custody for approximately twenty-nine hours.

45. Plaintiff DAVID CHEUNG was held and detained in police custody for approximately twelve hours.

46. Plaintiff JORDAN FERRAND-SAPSIS was held and detained in police custody for approximately twenty-one hours.

47. Plaintiff ROBERT FLYNN was held and detained in police custody for approximately eighteen hours.

48. Plaintiff JONATHON LORUSSO was held and detained in police custody for approximately ten hours.

49. Plaintiff ANDREW LYNN was held and detained in police custody for approximately twenty-seven hours.

50. Plaintiff CATHERINE RYAN was held and detained in police custody for approximately twenty hours.

51. Plaintiff SCOTT HANDLEMAN was held and detained in police custody for approximately ten hours.

52. Defendants initiated criminal proceedings against plaintiffs despite defendants' knowledge that they lacked probable cause to do so.

53. On or about September 16, 2004, plaintiff MICHAEL EPSTEIN accepted an Adjournment in Contemplation of Dismissal.

54. On or about January 13, 2005, plaintiff DAVID CHEUNG accepted an Adjournment in Contemplation of Dismissal.

55. On or about August 28, 2004, plaintiff JORDAN FERRAND-SAPSIS accepted an Adjournment in Contemplation of Dismissal.



56. On or about November 4, 2004, plaintiff ROBERT FLYNN accepted an Adjournment in Contemplation of Dismissal.

57. On or about September 13, 2004, plaintiff JON LORUSSO accepted an Adjournment in Contemplation of Dismissal.

58. On or about November 4, 2004, plaintiff ANDREW LYNN accepted an Adjournment in Contemplation of Dismissal.

59. On or about August 28, 2004, plaintiff CATHERINE RYAN accepted an Adjournment in Contemplation of Dismissal.

60. On or about January 25, 2005, plaintiff SCOTT HANDLEMAN accepted an Adjournment in Contemplation of Dismissal.

61. As a result of the foregoing, plaintiffs sustained, *inter alia*, physical injuries, emotional distress, embarrassment, and humiliation, and deprivation of their constitutional rights.

**FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF**  
**DEPRIVATION OF FEDERAL CIVIL RIGHTS UNDER 42 U.S.C. § 1983**

62. Plaintiffs repeat, reiterate and reallege each and every allegation contained in paragraphs "1" through "61" with the same force and effect as if fully set forth herein.

63. All of the aforementioned acts of defendants, their agents, servants and employees, were carried out under the color of state law.

64. All of the aforementioned acts deprived plaintiffs of the rights, privileges and immunities guaranteed to citizens of the United States by the First, Fourth, Fifth, Eighth and Fourteenth Amendments to the Constitution of the United States of America, and in violation of 42 U.S.C. § 1983.

65. The acts complained of were carried out by the aforementioned individual defendants in their capacities as police officers, with all of the actual and/or apparent authority attendant thereto.

66. The acts complained of were carried out by the aforementioned individual defendants in their capacities as police officers, pursuant to the customs, usages, practices, procedures, and the rules of the City of New York and the New York City Police Department, all under the supervision of ranking officers of said department.

67. Defendants, collectively and individually, while acting under color of state law, engaged in conduct that constituted a custom, usage, practice, procedure or rule of the respective municipality/authority, which is forbidden by the Constitution of the United States.

**SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF**  
**FALSE ARREST UNDER 42 U.S.C. § 1983**

68. Plaintiffs repeat, reiterate and reallege each and every allegation contained in paragraphs numbered “1” through “67” with the same force and effect as if fully set forth herein.

69. As a result of the aforesaid conduct by defendants, plaintiffs were subjected to illegal, improper and false arrest by the defendants and taken into custody and caused to be falsely imprisoned, detained, and confined, without any probable cause, privilege or consent.

70. As a result of the foregoing, plaintiffs’ liberty was restricted for an extended period of time, they were put in fear for their safety, and they were humiliated and subjected to handcuffing and other physical restraints, without probable cause.

**THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF**  
**MALICIOUS ABUSE OF PROCESS UNDER 42 U.S.C. § 1983**

71. Plaintiffs repeat, reiterate and reallege each and every allegation contained in paragraphs numbered “1” through “70” with the same force and effect as if fully set forth herein.

72. Defendants issued legal process to place plaintiffs under arrest.

73. Defendants arrested plaintiffs in order to obtain a collateral objective outside the legitimate ends of the legal process.

74. Defendants acted with intent to do harm to plaintiffs without excuse or justification.

**FOURTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**  
**EXCESSIVE FORCE UNDER 42 U.S.C. § 1983**

75. Plaintiffs repeat, reiterate and reallege each and every allegation contained in paragraphs numbered “1” through “74” with the same force and effect as if fully set forth herein.

76. The level of force employed by defendants was objectively unreasonable and in violation of plaintiffs’ constitutional rights.

77. As a result of the aforementioned conduct of defendants, plaintiffs were subjected to excessive force and sustained physical injuries.

**FIFTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**  
**FIRST AMENDMENT OF THE U.S. CONSTITUTION UNDER 42 U.S.C. § 1983**

78. Plaintiffs repeat, reiterate and reallege each and every allegation contained in paragraphs numbered “1” through “77” with the same force and effect as if fully set forth herein.

79. The arrest and detention of plaintiffs was intended to, and did, chill plaintiffs’ right to assemble peaceably.

80. The arrest and detention of plaintiffs was intended to, and did, chill plaintiffs’ right to free speech.

81. The arrest and detention of plaintiffs was intended to, and did, chill plaintiffs’ right to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

82. Plaintiffs were denied Desk Appearance Tickets and/or summonses in retaliation for their exercise of their First Amendment rights.

**SIXTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**  
**CONDITIONS OF CONFINEMENT UNDER 42 U.S.C. § 1983**

83. Plaintiffs repeat, reiterate and reallege each and every allegation contained in paragraphs numbered “1” through “82” with the same force and effect as if fully set forth herein.

84. Plaintiffs were subjected to unlawful conditions of confinement including, but not limited to, exposure to toxic substances, unreasonable overcrowding, extremes of heat and/or cold, denial of access to necessary medication and medical attention, denial of adequate food and water, denial of bathroom facilities, and/or denial of access to counsel.

85. As a result of the foregoing, plaintiffs sustained, *inter alia*, physical injuries, emotional distress, embarrassment, and humiliation, and deprivation of their constitutional rights.

**SEVENTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**  
**FAILURE TO INTERVENE UNDER 42 U.S.C. § 1983**

86. Plaintiffs repeat, reiterate and reallege each and every allegation contained in paragraphs numbered “1” through “85” with the same force and effect as if fully set forth herein.

87. Each and every individual defendant had an affirmative duty to intervene on plaintiffs’ behalf to prevent the violation of their constitutional rights.

88. The individual defendants failed to intervene on plaintiffs’ behalf to prevent the violation of their constitutional rights despite having had a realistic opportunity to do so.

89. As a result of the aforementioned conduct of the individual defendants, plaintiffs’ constitutional rights were violated.

**EIGHTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**  
**VIOLATION OF EQUAL PROTECTION UNDER 42 U.S.C. § 1983**

90. Plaintiffs repeat, reiterate and reallege each and every allegation contained in paragraphs numbered “1” through “89” with the same force and effect as if fully set forth herein.

91. Plaintiffs were not considered for Desk Appearance Tickets and/or summonses.

92. Other individuals arrested on August 27, 2004, who were not perceived to have been participating in RNC-related protests, were considered for Desk Appearance Tickets and/or summonses.

93. In failing to consider plaintiffs for Desk Appearance Tickets and/or summonses because of their perceived participating in RNC-related protests, defendants violated plaintiffs' right to equal protection and deprived them of rights, remedies, privileges and immunities guaranteed to every citizen of the United States, in violation of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution and 42 U.S.C. § 1983.

94. As a result of the foregoing, plaintiffs were detained for an excessive period of time.

**NINTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**  
**DENIAL OF CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO FAIR TRIAL**  
**UNDER 42 U.S.C. § 1983**

95. Plaintiffs repeat, reiterate and reallege each and every allegation contained in paragraphs numbered "1" through "94" with the same force and effect as if fully set forth herein.

96. Defendants created false evidence against plaintiffs.

97. Defendants forwarded false evidence to prosecutors in the New York County District Attorney's office.

98. Defendants misled juries, judges, and/or prosecutors by providing false testimony and proffering false evidence throughout the criminal proceedings.

99. In creating and forwarding false information to prosecutors, defendants violated plaintiffs' constitutional right to a fair trial under the Due Process Clause of the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments of the United States Constitution.

**TENTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**  
**DISORDERLY CONDUCT STATUTE, SUBSECTION 5**

100. Plaintiffs repeat, reiterate and reallege each and every allegation contained in paragraphs numbered "1" through "99" with the same force and effect as if fully set forth herein.

101. Subsection 5 of the Disorderly Conduct Statute violates the First Amendment and the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment, and is therefore unconstitutional, insofar as it is

applied to persons engaged in peaceful protest on public roadways in a manner that permits their arrest without first giving them an order that provides an opportunity for them to engage in peaceful protest without substantially impeding pedestrians and/or vehicles.

**ELEVENTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**  
**DISORDERLY CONDUCT STATUTE, SUBSECTION 6**

102. Plaintiffs repeat, reiterate and reallege each and every allegation contained in paragraphs numbered “1” through “101” with the same force and effect as if fully set forth herein.

103. Subsection 6 of the Disorderly Conduct Statute violates the First Amendment and the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment, and is therefore unconstitutional, insofar as it is applied to persons who congregate to peacefully protest on public roadways in a manner that permits their arrest without first giving them an order that provides an opportunity for them to engage in peaceful protest without substantially impeding pedestrians and/or vehicles.

**TWELFTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**  
**PARADING WITHOUT A PERMIT**

104. Plaintiffs repeat, reiterate and reallege each and every allegation contained in paragraphs numbered “1” through “103” with the same force and effect as if fully set forth herein.

105. New York City Administrative Code section 10.110, Parading Without a Permit, insofar as it permits defendants to require a permit for persons to walk on a public sidewalk or ride on a public roadway for the purpose of peaceful protest, violates the First Amendment to the United States Constitution and Article I, Sections 8 and 12 of the New York State Constitution.

**THIRTEENTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**  
**MUNICIPAL LIABILITY**

106. Plaintiffs repeat, reiterate and reallege each and every allegation contained in paragraphs numbered “1” through “105” with the same force and effect as if fully set forth herein.

107. Defendants, collectively and individually, while acting under color of state law,

engaged in conduct that constituted a custom, usage, practice, procedure or rule of the respective municipality/authority, which is forbidden by the Constitution of the United States.

108. The aforementioned customs, policies, usages, practices, procedures and rules of the City of New York and the New York City Police Department included, but were not limited to, making mass arrests without individualized probable cause; arresting individuals for peacefully participating in a political protest or for simply being in the vicinity of a political protest; using unnecessary force in taking individuals into custody; deliberately handcuffing detainees too tightly; denying Desk Appearance Tickets and/or summonses; detaining individuals for excessive periods of time; exposing detainees to toxic substances and other unlawful conditions of confinement; and falsifying documents, videotapes, evidence, and testimony.

109. The foregoing customs, policies, usages, practices, procedures and rules of the City of New York and the New York City Police Department constituted deliberate indifference to the safety, well-being and constitutional rights of plaintiffs.

110. The foregoing customs, policies, usages, practices, procedures and rules of the City of New York and the New York City Police Department were the direct and proximate cause of the constitutional violations suffered by plaintiffs as alleged herein.

111. The foregoing customs, policies, usages, practices, procedures and rules of the City of New York and the New York City Police Department were the moving force behind the constitutional violations suffered by plaintiffs as alleged herein.

112. As a result of the foregoing customs, policies, usages, practices, procedures and rules of the City of New York and the New York City Police Department, plaintiffs were unlawfully arrested and detained.

113. Defendants, collectively and individually, while acting under color of state law, were

directly and actively involved in violating plaintiffs' constitutional rights.

114. All of the foregoing acts by defendants deprived plaintiffs of federally protected rights, including, but not limited to, the right:

- A. Not to be deprived of liberty without due process of law;
- B. To be free from seizure and arrest not based upon probable cause;
- C. Not to have excessive force imposed upon them;
- D. To be free from malicious abuse of process;
- E. To exercise their First Amendment rights;
- F. Not to be subjected to unlawful conditions of confinement;
- G. Not to have cruel and unusual punishment imposed upon them; and
- H. To receive equal protection under the law.

115. As a result of the foregoing, each plaintiff is entitled to compensatory damages in the sum of five million dollars (\$5,000,000.00) and is further entitled to punitive damages against the individual defendants in the sum of five million dollars (\$5,000,000.00).

#### **PENDANT STATE CLAIMS**

**(BY ALL PLAINTIFFS EXCEPT LORUSSO, LYNN, and HANDLEMAN)**

116. Plaintiffs repeat, reiterate and reallege each and every allegation contained in paragraphs numbered "1" through "115" with the same force and effect as if fully set forth herein.

117. On or about November 26, 2004, and within ninety (90) days after the claim herein accrued, plaintiffs duly served upon, presented to and filed with the City of New York and the Hudson River Park Trust, a Notice of Claim setting forth all facts and information required under General Municipal Law § 50-e and section 11 of the Hudson River Park Act.

118. The City of New York and the Hudson River Park Trust have wholly neglected or



refused to make an adjustment or payment thereof and more than thirty (30) days have elapsed since the presentation of such claim as aforesaid.

119. The City of New York demanded hearings pursuant to General Municipal Law § 50-h and said hearings were conducted on the following dates: plaintiff MICHAEL EPSTEIN – May 24, 2005; plaintiff CATHERINE RYAN – April 6, 2005.

120. The City of New York failed to schedule hearings pursuant to General Municipal Law § 50-h for the following plaintiffs and such hearings are accordingly deemed waived: plaintiff DAVID CHEUNG, plaintiff JORDAN FERRAND-SAPSIS, and plaintiff ROBERT FLYNN.

121. This action was commenced against the Hudson River Park Trust within one (1) year after the cause of action herein accrued and against the City of New York within one (1) year and ninety (90) days after the cause of action herein accrued.

122. Plaintiffs have complied with all conditions precedent to maintaining the instant action.

123. This action falls within one or more of the exceptions as outlined in C.P.L.R. § 1602.

**FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF UNDER N.Y. STATE LAW  
FALSE ARREST**

**(AGAINST DEFENDANT CITY OF NEW YORK ONLY)**

124. Plaintiffs repeat, reiterate and reallege each and every allegation contained in paragraphs numbered “1” through “123” with the same force and effect as if fully set forth herein.

125. Defendant police officers arrested plaintiffs in the absence of probable cause and without a warrant.

126. As a result of the aforesaid conduct by defendants, plaintiffs were subjected to an illegal, improper and false arrest by the defendants and taken into custody and caused to be falsely

imprisoned, detained, confined, incarcerated and prosecuted by the defendants in criminal proceedings.

127. The aforesaid actions by the defendants constituted a deprivation of plaintiffs' rights.

**SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF UNDER N.Y. STATE LAW  
FALSE IMPRISONMENT**

**(AGAINST DEFENDANT CITY OF NEW YORK ONLY)**

128. Plaintiffs repeat, reiterate and reallege each and every allegation contained in paragraphs numbered "1" through "127" with the same force and effect as if fully set forth herein.

129. As a result of the foregoing, plaintiffs were falsely imprisoned, their liberty was restricted for an extended period of time, they were put in fear for their safety, and they were humiliated and subjected to handcuffing and other physical restraints.

130. Plaintiffs were conscious of said confinement and did not consent to same.

131. The confinement of plaintiffs was without probable cause and was not otherwise privileged.

132. As a result of the aforementioned conduct, plaintiffs have suffered physical and mental injury, together with embarrassment, humiliation, shock, fright and loss of freedom.

**THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF UNDER N.Y. STATE LAW  
ASSAULT**

**(AGAINST DEFENDANT CITY OF NEW YORK ONLY)**

133. Plaintiffs repeat, reiterate and reallege each and every allegation contained in paragraphs numbered "1" through "132" with the same force and effect as if fully set forth herein.

134. Defendants' aforementioned actions placed plaintiffs in apprehension of imminent harmful and offensive bodily contact.

135. As a result of defendants' conduct, plaintiffs have suffered physical pain and mental

anguish, together with shock, fright, apprehension, embarrassment, and humiliation.

**FOURTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF UNDER N.Y. STATE LAW  
BATTERY**

**(AGAINST DEFENDANT CITY OF NEW YORK ONLY)**

136. Plaintiffs repeat, reiterate and reallege each and every allegation contained in paragraphs numbered “1” through “135” with the same force and effect as if fully set forth herein.

137. Defendant police officers touched plaintiffs in a harmful and offensive manner.

138. Defendant police officers did so without privilege or consent from plaintiffs.

139. As a result of defendants’ conduct, plaintiffs have suffered physical pain and mental anguish, together with shock, fright, apprehension, embarrassment and humiliation.

**FIFTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF UNDER N.Y. STATE LAW  
MALICIOUS ABUSE OF PROCESS**

**(AGAINST DEFENDANT CITY OF NEW YORK ONLY)**

140. Plaintiffs repeat, reiterate and reallege each and every allegation contained in paragraphs numbered “1” through “139” with the same force and effect as if fully set forth herein.

141. Defendant police officers issued legal process to place plaintiffs under arrest.

142. Defendant police officers arrested plaintiffs to obtain a collateral objective outside the legitimate ends of the legal process.

143. Defendant police officers acted with intent to do harm to plaintiffs, without excuse or justification.

144. As a result of the aforementioned conduct, plaintiffs suffered physical and mental injury, together with embarrassment, humiliation, shock, fright, and loss of freedom.

**SIXTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF UNDER N.Y. STATE LAW  
NEGLIGENT EXPOSURE TO TOXIC CHEMICALS AND SUBSTANCES**

**(AGAINST DEFENDANT CITY OF NEW YORK ONLY)**

145. Plaintiffs repeat, reiterate and reallege each and every allegation contained in paragraphs numbered “1” through “144” with the same force and effect as if fully set forth herein.

146. In housing plaintiffs at Pier 57, defendants assumed a duty of care to ensure that plaintiffs were not exposed to toxic chemicals and substances.

147. Defendants breached that duty of care by failing to decontaminate Pier 57 or otherwise make it safe for occupancy by plaintiffs.

148. Defendants further breached that duty of care by failing to warn plaintiffs that Pier 57 was contaminated by toxic chemicals and substances.

149. As a result of the aforementioned conduct, plaintiffs were exposed to toxic chemicals and substances, the effects of which have not yet been ascertained.

150. As a result of the aforementioned conduct and of the resulting toxic exposure, plaintiffs have suffered severe emotional distress, physical and mental injury, shock, and fright, and are entitled to compensatory damages including, but not limited to, future medical expenses including, but not limited to, medical monitoring and testing.

**SEVENTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF UNDER N.Y. STATE LAW  
NEGLIGENT EXPOSURE TO TOXIC CHEMICALS AND SUBSTANCES**

**(AGAINST DEFENDANT HUDSON RIVER PARK TRUST (“HRPT”) ONLY)**

151. Plaintiffs repeat, reiterate and reallege each and every allegation contained in paragraphs numbered “1” through “150” with the same force and effect as if fully set forth herein.

152. In leasing Pier 57 to the City of New York with knowledge that it would be used to house human beings, defendant HUDSON RIVER PARK TRUST assumed a duty of care to ensure

that plaintiffs were not exposed to toxic chemicals and substances.

153. Defendant HUDSON RIVER PARK TRUST breached that duty of care by failing to decontaminate Pier 57 or otherwise make it safe for occupancy by plaintiffs.

154. Defendant HUDSON RIVER PARK TRUST further breached that duty of care by failing to warn plaintiffs that Pier 57 was contaminated by toxic chemicals and substances.

155. As a result of the aforementioned conduct, plaintiffs were exposed to toxic chemicals and substances, the effects of which have not yet been ascertained.

156. As a result of the aforementioned conduct and of the resulting toxic exposure, plaintiffs have suffered severe emotional distress, physical and mental injury, shock, and fright, and are entitled to compensatory damages including, but not limited to, future medical expenses including, but not limited to, medical monitoring and testing.

**EIGHTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF UNDER N.Y. STATE LAW**  
**INTENTIONAL INFLICTION OF EMOTIONAL DISTRESS**

**(AGAINST DEFENDANTS CITY and HRPT ONLY)**

**(BY ALL PLAINTIFFS EXCEPT LORUSSO, LYNN, HANDLEMAN, and RYAN)**

157. Plaintiffs repeat, reiterate and reallege each and every allegation contained in paragraphs numbered “1” through “156” with the same force and effect as if fully set forth herein.

158. The aforementioned conduct was extreme and outrageous, and exceeded all reasonable bounds of decency.

159. The aforementioned conduct was committed by employees, servants and/or agents of defendants THE CITY OF NEW YORK and HUDSON RIVER PARK TRUST, while acting within the scope of their employment.

160. The aforementioned conduct was committed by employees, servants and/or agents of defendants THE CITY OF NEW YORK and HUDSON RIVER PARK TRUST, while acting in

furtherance of their employment.

161. The aforementioned conduct was intentional and done for the sole purpose of causing severe emotional distress to plaintiffs.

162. As a result of the aforementioned conduct, plaintiffs suffered severe emotional distress, physical and mental injury, together with embarrassment, humiliation, shock, fright and loss of freedom.

**NINTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF UNDER N.Y. STATE LAW**  
**NEGLIGENT INFLICTION OF EMOTIONAL DISTRESS**

**(AGAINST DEFENDANTS CITY and HRPT ONLY)**

**(BY ALL PLAINTIFFS EXCEPT LORUSSO, LYNN, HANDLEMAN, and RYAN)**

163. Plaintiffs repeat, reiterate and reallege each and every allegation contained in paragraphs numbered “1” through “162” with the same force and effect as if fully set forth herein.

164. The aforementioned conduct was extreme and outrageous, and exceeded all reasonable bounds of decency.

165. The aforementioned conduct was negligent and caused severe emotional distress to plaintiffs.

166. The aforementioned conduct was committed by employees, servants and/or agents of defendants THE CITY OF NEW YORK and HUDSON RIVER PARK TRUST, while acting within the scope of their employment.

167. The aforementioned conduct was committed by employees, servants and/or agents of defendants THE CITY OF NEW YORK and HUDSON RIVER PARK TRUST, while acting in furtherance of their employment.

168. As a result of the aforementioned conduct, plaintiffs suffered severe emotional distress, physical and mental injury, together with embarrassment, humiliation, shock, fright and loss

of freedom.

**TENTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF UNDER N.Y. STATE LAW  
PRIMA FACIE TORT**

**(AGAINST DEFENDANTS CITY and HRPT ONLY)**

169. Plaintiffs repeat, reiterate and reallege each and every allegation contained in paragraphs numbered “1” through “168” with the same force and effect as if fully set forth herein.

170. Defendants, by the aforesaid conduct, inflicted harm upon plaintiffs.

171. The aforesaid conduct of defendants was intentional.

172. The aforesaid conduct of defendants was without any excuse or justification.

173. As a result of the conduct of defendants, plaintiffs sustained, *inter alia*, severe physical and emotional injuries and special damages.

**ELEVENTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF UNDER N.Y. STATE LAW  
NEGLIGENT HIRING AND RETENTION**

**(AGAINST DEFENDANT CITY OF NEW YORK ONLY)**

174. Plaintiffs repeat, reiterate and reallege each and every allegation contained in paragraphs numbered “1” through “173” with the same force and effect as if fully set forth herein.

175. Upon information and belief, defendant City of New York failed to use reasonable care in the hiring and retention of the aforesaid defendants who authorized, conducted and participated in the arrest of plaintiffs.

176. Defendant City of New York knew, or should have known in the exercise of reasonable care, the propensities of the defendants P.O. MICHAEL HO, P.O. STEVEN CHOINSKI, P.O. DREW REPETTI, SGT. JAMES TORCHI, P.O. FRANKLIN DIAZ, P.O. COLLEEN KILLEN, P.O. THOMAS CREAN, P.O. SZABOLES DAVID, P.O. DAVID CICATIELLO, P.O. STEPHEN VALENTINE, CHIEF JOSEPH ESPOSITO, CHIEF NICHOLAS ESTAVILLO, ASST.

CHIEF BRUCE SMOLKA, DEPUTY COMMISSIONER JOHN COLGAN, CHIEF PATRICK DEVLIN, INSP. THOMAS GRAHAM, DEPUTY CHIEF TERENCE MONAHAN, CAPT. RONALD MERCANDETTI, CAPT. JOHN HUGHES, LT. THOMAS LOWE, CAPT. ANTHONY BOLOGNA, DEP. INSP. JAMES SHEA, CHIEF JAMES O'NEILL, DEPUTY INSP. GERALD DIECKMANN, DEPUTY COMMISSIONER STEPHEN HAMMERMAN, ASST. DEPUTY COMMISSIONER THOMAS DOEPFNER, LT. DANIEL ALBANO, DEPUTY INSPECTOR KERRY SWEET, SENIOR COUNSEL RUBY MARIN-JORDAN, and P.O.s JOHN and JANE DOE #1-50 to engage in the wrongful conduct heretofore alleged in this Complaint.

**TWELFTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF UNDER N.Y. STATE LAW  
NEGLIGENT TRAINING AND SUPERVISION**

**(AGAINST DEFENDANT CITY OF NEW YORK ONLY)**

177. Plaintiffs repeat, reiterate and reallege each and every allegation contained in paragraphs numbered "1" through "176" with the same force and effect as if fully set forth herein.

178. Upon information and belief the defendant City of New York failed to use reasonable care in the training and supervision of the aforesaid defendants who authorized, conducted and participated in the arrest of plaintiffs.

179. As a result of the foregoing, each plaintiff is entitled to compensatory damages in the sum of five million dollars (\$5,000,000.00) and is further entitled to punitive damages against the individual defendants in the sum of five million dollars (\$5,000,000.00).

**WHEREFORE**, each plaintiff demands judgment in the sum of five million dollars (\$5,000,000.00) in compensatory damages and five million dollars (\$5,000,000.00) in punitive damages, plus reasonable attorney's fees, costs, and disbursements of this action.

Dated: New York, New York



November 23, 2009

\_\_\_\_\_/s  
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